IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled and withdrawn claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously added), (reinstated - formerly claim #), (previously reinstated), (re-presented - formerly dependent claim #) or, (previously re-presented).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1.   (currently amended) A database transition system for ~~changing over~~ using an existing persistent relational database to ~~an~~ create a persistent object database, where the relational database persistently stores a set of data as relational data and where the object database persistently stores objects as database entities corresponding to the relational data without using the relational database, said database transition system comprising:

a relational database (RDB) definition information extracting ~~means for~~ unit extracting RDB definition information from an RDB repository storing the relational database and describing therein definition information of the relational database, the definition information describing at least tables in the relational database, where the relational database is a transition object ~~to be transitioned to~~ from which the object database is to be created; and

a repository creating ~~means for~~ unit creating an object database (ODB) repository describing therein definition information of the object database associated with the RDB definition information in accordance with the RDB definition information extracted by said RDB definition information extracting ~~means~~ unit and ~~for~~ creating a correlation information repository defining mutual relationship between the RDB definition information and ODB definition information.

2.   (currently amended) A database transition system according to claim 1, wherein said database transition system further comprises data transition ~~means for~~ unit converting data of the relational database into the object database in accordance with the correlation information repository created by said repository creating ~~means~~ unit.

3.　(currently amended) A database transition system according to claims 1, wherein said database transition system further comprises an application program conversion ~~means for~~ unit converting an application program described in a relational database based language into an application program described in an object database based language in accordance with the correlation information repository created by said repository creating ~~means~~ unit.

4.　(currently amended) A program storage medium storing a database transition processing program for changing over an existing relational database to an object database,
　　wherein said database transition processing program comprises:
　　an RDB definition information extracting ~~means for~~ unit extracting RDB definition information from an RDB repository describing therein definition information of the relational database which is a transition object to the object database; and
　　a repository creating ~~means for~~ unit creating an ODB repository describing therein definition information of the object database associated with the RDB definition information in accordance with the RDB definition information extracted by said RDB definition information extracting ~~means~~ unit and for creating correlation information repository defining mutual relationship between the RDB definition information and ODB definition information.

5.　(currently amended) A program storage medium according to claim 4, wherein said database transition processing program further comprises a data transition ~~means for~~ unit converting data of the relational database into the object database in accordance with the correlation information repository created by said repository creating ~~means~~ unit.

6.　(currently amended) A program storage medium according to claims 4, wherein said database transition processing program further comprises an application program conversion ~~means for~~ unit converting an application program described in a relational database based language into an application program described in an object database based language in accordance with the correlation information repository created by said repository creating ~~means~~ unit.

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7.   (currently amended) An automated method for changing over an existing relational database to ~~an~~ a new and separate persistent object database where the relational database persistently stores a set of data as relational data and where the object database persistently stores objects as database entities corresponding to the relational data without using the relational database, said method comprising:

automatically extracting RDB definition information from an RDB repository describing therein definition information of the relational database, the definition information describing at least tables in the relational database, which is a transition object ~~to be transitioned to~~ from which the object database is to be created; and

automatically creating an ODB repository describing therein definition information of the object database associated with the RDB definition information in accordance with the extracted RDB definition information and creating a correlation information repository defining mutual relationship between the RDB definition information and ODB definition information.

8.   (new) A method for creating an object database based on an existing relational database, where the object database is a database that is not a relational database and does not use a relational database for storing objects, where the object database directly and persistently stores objects and also provides a language for such storing and for accessing the stored objects, where the objects are stored according to corresponding class definitions, and where the object database automatically changes how it stores objects of a class when a definition of such class changes, the method comprising:

allowing a user to interactively create object database design information, where the object database design information is based on displayed definition information of the existing relational database that defines schematic structure of the relational database including at least tables of the relational database and relations therebetween; and

automatically creating the object database based on the created interactive design information.

9.   (new) A method according to claim 8, wherein the interactive designing comprises interactively correlating new classes of the object database and attributes thereof to respective tables of the relational database and corresponding columns thereof.

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10.   (new) A method according to claim 8, further comprising at least one of:
automatically setting attributes of objects in the object database to values that correspond to values from corresponding rows of the relational database; and

automatically creating query code in the language of the object database based on corresponding structured query language code associated with the relational database.

11.   (new) A graphical user interface for creating a new object database definition based on a relational database definition defining structure and elements of an existing relational database, the elements comprising at least tables, the graphical user interface comprising:

an interactive display area displaying interactively selectable indicia of elements of the relational database definition; and

a class setup screen allowing new classes of the object database to be interactively setup according to elements of the relational database definition interactively selected with the interactive display area.